

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An authentication apparatus is described which comprises[[,]] ~~comprising~~[[:]] an existence confirmation signal receiver which ~~in order to receive an existence confirmation signal outputted from a portable information terminal at a first time interval, is set to a reception mode capable of receiving said~~ receives an existence confirmation signal, transmitted from a portable information terminal at a first time interval, at a second time interval, only during a third time interval equal to or longer than said first time interval. [[;]] The apparatus ~~an existence notice signal transmitter which~~ transmits [[said]] an existence notice signal serving as a response of said to the existence confirmation signal to [[said]] the portable information terminal when [[said]] the existence confirmation ~~notice~~ signal is received. [[;]] The apparatus includes a link connection unit configured to establish a wireless link with [[said]] the portable information terminal after [[said]] the existence notice signal has been received by [[said]] the portable information terminal [[;]], an authentication unit configured to conduct authentication with [[said]] the portable information terminal through said wireless link [[;]], and a control command transmitter which transmits a control command for an operation apparatus which conducts a prescribed operation when [[said]] the authentication has been succeeded.